

It is interesting to note that in the correspondence cited above, Mr. White controverted the belief, expressed in most popular works, that the fruit-bats or "flying-foxes" may cling to one another in camp. He wrote: "I have observed many camps containing many thousands of bats, but never saw them clinging to each other; in fact, they are such bad tempered quarrelsome beasts that I feel sure the idea is wrong. In a very large camp the bats are frequently seen in festoons from tree to tree, but always hanging on a vine or pliable branch, the latter bending over when fully laden, while in a fine series of photos taken near my home at Bell-trees the bats are in no case shown to be touching." In response to the inquiry of one possessed of such considerable experience, I could only say that statements of their clinging together have usually been attributed to excessively crowded conditions, and expressed the hope that those in a position to make first-hand observations may be able to clear up the point. There is no doubt, however, to my mind, that Mr. White's contention is correct, especially in view of the irritable nature of the creatures, reports to the contrary probably being due to a misconception of the "festoons" which he describes.

Writing of a specimen of *scapulatus* from Chillagoe, in the Cairns district, which he presented to the Museum, Mr. W. D. Campbell says: "There were dozens of them to be seen hanging to the top branches of trees along the creek . . . but they did not stop long, about a fortnight, and then moved on somewhere. The flying opossums also seem to have departed." The range of the larger *poliocephalus* extends from Cape Howe in Victoria to Cape York, and is therefore more restricted than that of *scapulatus*. Frequent and rapid migrations are typical of the two species, and, as it is known that different kinds of fruits are favoured by different forms, there is an interesting course of investigation suggested, in which observations may indicate why their range overlaps for a certain area in eastern Australia, *poliocephalus* extending much farther south, and *scapulatus*, equally independently, reaching right across to the north-western coast.

The economic importance of these mammals as pests is well known, and the notes are published in the hope that they may even slightly assist workers engaged in studying habits and migrations with regard to the economic importance of the subject.

A BAT COLONY.

Mr. Albert De Lestang writes to Mr. A. S. Le Souef from Adel's Grove, Burketown, North Queensland:—

"Since coming to this part of the Gulf of Carpentaria I have noticed two or three species of rare parrots at long intervals which I cannot place in the list of our birds. Recently I watched a pair of these handsome but rare visitors at the topmost of the highest gum amongst other giant trees, and concluded that they had young somewhere in the tree. It was not this alone that kept me watching them, but their seeming frenzy at some object I could not see or guess at. It was a giant river gum of immense girth, to all appearance sound, not a dry branch visible, but I concluded otherwise, as a characteristic of this variety is that they are always more or less hollow. I therefore swung my axe at the bole, and when the tree crashed down, its limbs in hundreds of pieces, a writhing mass of squealing miniature piglets poured forth! Thousands of little bats swarmed the ground, seeking shelter. Hundreds of them scrambled over me, worming their way into my clothes, biting and scratching me badly in their struggles. In much less time than it takes to write I backed from their

midst, but not until I had unwillingly killed or wounded many. These little creatures are useful insect destroyers. I think that not more than 30 or 40 flew away, the remainder eventually crawling back into the broken hollow limbs thrown about the ground. Some of these broken pieces were over 12 feet in length, with pipe 18 inches in circumference, packed tight with these little animals. The bole was a huge pipe, the hollow over five feet in diameter, in parts filled with the bats. By same mail I am posting two of these little bats, thinking they may prove of interest to you or some of the Museums. Look at their pig-like face, at their pleasing features. Are they not winning creatures?"

The bat has been identified by Mr. E. L. Troughton as *Chaerephon plicatus colonicus* Thomas.

CHECK LIST OF THE AUSTRALIAN BUPRESTIDAE.

Vide vol. v., pp. 265-304.

CORRIGENDA.

- 17. *terraereginae* for *terracreginae*.
- 178. *pygmaeus* for *pygmacus*.
- 209. *cylindrica* for *cylindricus*.
- 404. *chalcodera* for *chaleodera*.
- 407. *donovani* for *donorani*.
- 478. The three synonyms *alacris* Kerr.
 libens Kerr.
 quadrinotata Blkb.
 should be under 478 *alternecosta* Thoms. instead of under 480.
- 549. *dilatata* for *dilaticollis*.
- 644. 1838 for 1868.
- App.: p. 302. *Chrysobotris* for *Chrysobolris*.
 jakovlevi for *jakavlevi*.

ADDENDA.

- Nascio parryi* Hope, Tr. Ent. Soc. Lond., 1845, 103. N.S.W., V., T.
- Castiarina amplicollis* Saund., Jour. Linn. Soc., 1868, 480. N.S.W.
- Castiarina canaliculata* Blkb., Roy. Soc. S.A., 1892, 51. Q.
- Castiarina dulcis* Blkb., Roy. Soc. S.A., 1900, 41. T.
- colorata* Kerr., Ann. Soc. Ent. Belg., 1898, 141.
- Castiarina erythroptera* Boisd., Voy. Astral., 1835, 88. All States.
- Castiarina klugi* L. & G., Mon., 1839, 27. East Australia.
- Castiarina montigena* Oke., Linn. Soc. N.S.W., 1928, 28. V.
- Castiarina punctatosulcata* Saund., Ins. Saund., 1869, 480. . . N.S.W., V.
- litigiosa* Kerr., Soc. Ent. Belg., 1890, 45.
- Castiarina rubrocincta* Gehin., Bull. Soc. Mos., 1855, 13. W.A.
- Castiarina subgrata* Blkb., Roy. Soc. S.A., 1899, 157. N.S.W., V.
- campestris* Kerr., Ann. Soc. Ent. Belg., 1898, 139.
- Castiarina tropica* Cart., Linn. Soc. N.S.W., 1922, 72. Cape York.
- S. G. *HYPOSTIGMODERA* Blkb., Roy. Soc. S.A., 1892, 215.
- variegata* Blkb., l.c. Q.

SYNONYMS OMITTED.

Under *Bubastes cylindrica*.

- var. *euryspiloides* Obenb., Arch. f. Naturg., 1922, 82.
- var. *crassula* Obenb., l.c., 1926, 192.